

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

Forest Cutting Plan Summary

DCR File Number	192-2819-7
Natural Heritage Atlas	Extensive overlap with Priority or Estimated habitats for rare species
Public Drinking Water Supply	Yes
ACEC	No

Site Information:

Property: Montague Plains WMA	Town(s): Montague
Acres: 130	Road: (off) Lake Pleasant Road
Forest Management Zone: Connecticut River Valley	Wildlife District: Connecticut Valley
Ecoregion: Connecticut River Valley	Watershed: Connecticut River
Stands Treated: CV590, 598, 603, 604, 606, 663, 676, 688, 728,	

Harvest Information:

Objectives: To reduce crown fire hazard in the vicinity of private properties, to conserve associated rare species habitat, and to establish fire-adapted pitch pine/scrub-oak communities including patches of young forest and shrubland habitat that can subsequently be managed under a prescribed burning/mowing regime.

Harvest Start Date: January 10, 2007	Harvest End Date: April 1, 2008 (estimated)
---	--

Forest Products to be Harvested

Species	Board Foot Volume	Hardwood Cords	Softwood Cords
Pitch Pine	490	0	1,000
White Pine	60	0	100
Total	550	0	1,100

Site Selection: This area was identified as a priority project site by the Natural Heritage Restoration Ecologist. In cooperation with the University of Massachusetts, NHESP and DFW, this project, that includes several stand locations, was designed to reduce the hazards associated with a running crown fire in close proximity to private properties mostly located within the nearby village of Lake Pleasant.

Silviculture: While the primary objective of this project is based on the desire to reduce crown fire hazard, this harvest, as designed, primarily resembles a seed tree prescription. Ten or more overstory trees/acre will be retained, including large, dominant pitch pine and oak. Retained trees are typically dispersed as individuals or small groups with well separated crowns to minimize the likelihood of fires that run from one adjacent crown to the next. Old field pitch pine in stands 1, 2, and 4 will be mechanically thinned to reduce ladder fuels and to separate the crowns; old field white pine in stand 3 will be removed to favor the remaining oaks (red, white oak, black and scarlet) and the fire-adapted pitch pine. These stands will be periodically maintained with prescribed fire or other mechanical fuel reduction treatments.

Plan Preparer:

Anne Marie Kittredge
Division of Fisheries & Wildlife
341 East Street
Belchertown, MA 01007
617-851-3577
MA Licensed Forester No. 126

Licensed Timber Harvester:

Scott Anderson
36 Nichols Street
Westminster, MA 01473
MA Licensed Harvester No. 07-130

Best Management Practices:

Stream Crossings: None
Filter Strips: None

Wetland Crossings: None
Harvesting in Wetlands: None

Cutting Standards:

Feature (see map)	Stand 1	Stand 2	Stand 3	Stand 4
Forest Type	Pitch Pine	Pitch Pine	White Pine	Pitch Pine
Acres	54.5	26	10.5	39
Landowner Objective	Long Term	Long Term	Long Term	Long Term
Designation of Trees	Leave	Leave	Leave	Leave
Type of Cut	Seed Tree	Seed Tree	Seed Tree	Seed Tree
Source of Regeneration	Advanced & Natural Seed	Advanced & Natural Seed	Advanced & Natural Seed	Advanced & Natural Seed

Determination of Status:

This Forest Cutting Plan was approved by DCR and NHESP on December 21, 2006. An amendment was submitted and approved by DCR and NHESP in April 2007. The amended acreage expands stand 1 from 42 acres to 54.5 acres and brings this fuel reduction project closer in proximity to the associated private properties within the Village of Lake Pleasant that could be damaged by a running crown fire. Stands 2, 3 and 4 of this Forest Cutting Plan are subject to NHESP timing restrictions (winter harvest) designed to conserve rare species habitat.

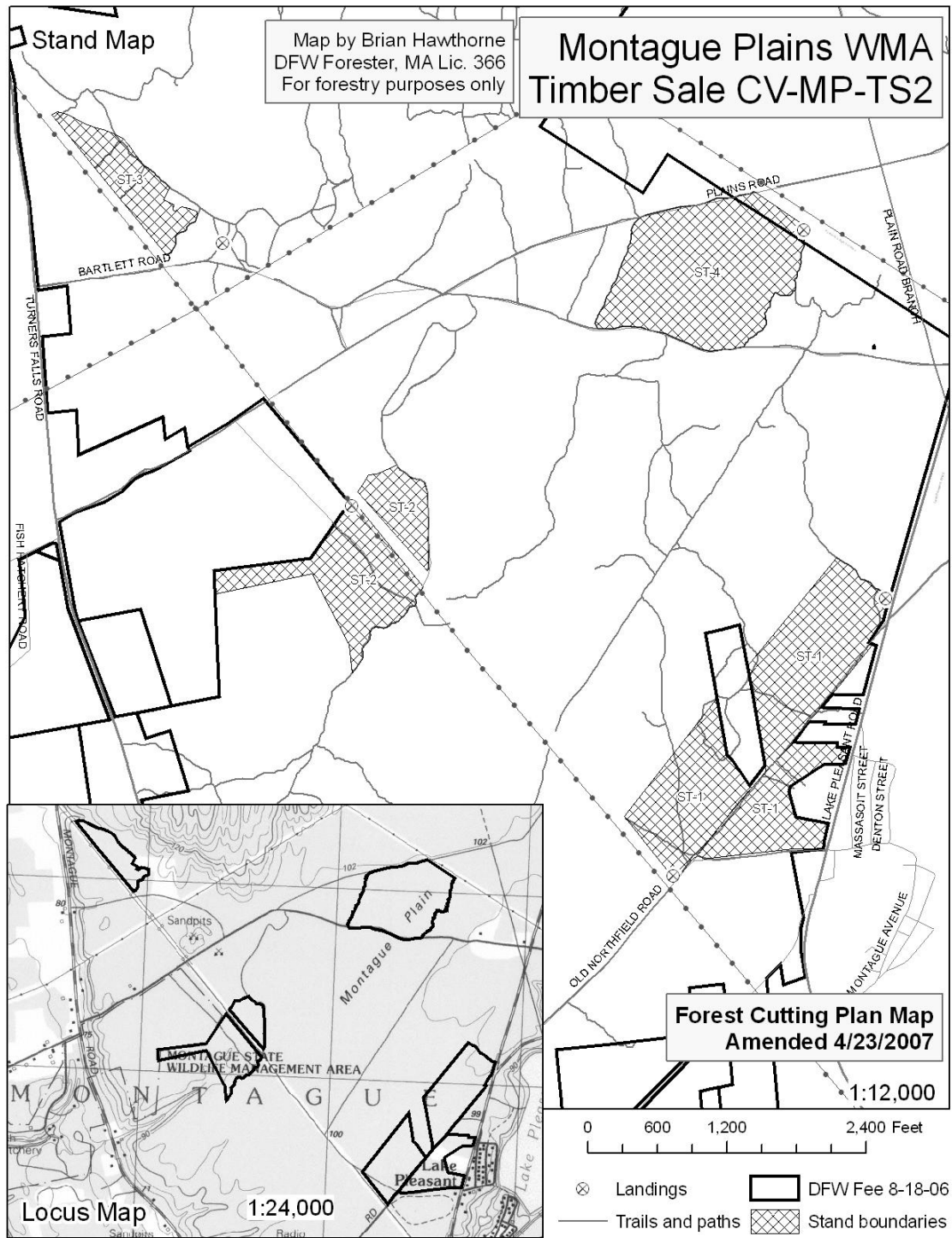


Figure 1. Stand Treatment (Fuel Reduction) Map - Montague Plains WMA



MassWildlife photo by Anne Marie Kittredge

March 2007 – A mechanical harvester cutting pitch pine on the Montague Plains WMA to reduce potential wildfire danger and to enhance wildlife habitat.



MassWildlife photo by Anne Marie Kittredge

March 2007 – Grapple skidder transporting low-quality pitch pine stems to a chipper on the Montague Plains WMA.



MassWildlife photo by Anne Marie Kittredge

March 2007 – Industrial chipper processing pitch pine on the Montague Plains WMA. Chips were transported to the co-generation electric power plant in Westminster, MA to produce electricity.



MassWildlife photo by Anne Marie Kittredge

March 2007 – Completed fuel reduction harvest at the Montague Plains WMA.